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QUOTATIONS

UNIVERSITY LIFE IN KANSAS

THE vague feeling of unrest that has prevailed among the members of the university faculty on account of sweeping changes that might be made by the new board of administration has deepened into real alarm with the announcement from the board that all positions at the university have been declared open.

This is understood to mean that when the new board takes charge formally July 1, the entire faculty must be reengaged. The fact that a member has been elected a permanent member of the faculty by the board of regents in previous years after serving an apprentice term of years would not necessarily count at all with the new board. The board has by its announcement indicated that it will feel free to drop any member of the faculty it pleases.

That such will be the attitude of the new board is indicated by its action at a meeting last week when Chancellor Strong and President Waters were "reelected" to the positions they now occupy. As there was no definite limit to their "terms" it is hard to explain the action of the board other than by the supposition that it is its intention to wipe the slate clean and build the university anew "from the ground up." If any person has a position on the faculty after July 1, he will hold it directly from the new board of administration and not by virtue of the fact that he has grown old in the service of the institution.

Naturally, this plan of procedure has made the faculty very uneasy. It has been customary to reelect a new member for a number of years, until he had proved his worth to the institution, and then the regents would elect him a "permanent member" of the faculty. Under the new rule the old members are placed in the same boat with instructors of a single year's standing. None of them will know until after the "election" whether they are to be turned on the faculty. It is not an uncommon thing for a professor to have enemies. How is he to know that his enemies may not have the ear of the board, spreading little stories that reflect upon him? The old

board of regents made it a practise to pay very little attention to such stories, although they heard plenty of them. But what the new board will do is entirely a matter of conjecture.

The most envied members of the faculty at the present time are those who have had offers of situations elsewhere. Of course everything may turn out all right, but, on the other hand, men who otherwise would have nothing to be alarmed at may be eliminated when the new broom begins to give its exhibition of clean sweeping. And a good many teachers have remarked privately in the last few months that they intended to take the first fair offer from elsewhere that presented itself. The talk about abolishing and consolidating and transferring courses was enough to make them uneasy, but the announcement now made that every teacher is likely to be treated as if he were for the first time an applicant for a position at the university has caused a decided feeling of insecurity.—*Lawrence Gazette*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

A History of European Thought in the Nineteenth Century. By JOHN THEODORE MERZ. Vol. III. (Part II., Philosophical Thought). New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1912. Pp. xiii + 646.

Nothing so well illustrates the profound interest of the great subject undertaken by Dr. Merz as the contrast between his work and Whewell's "History of the Inductive Sciences" (3d ed., New York, 1858). The evident superiority of the later history, especially in intensive treatment and exact *Facharbeit*, is in itself an index of the wonderful progress that characterized the nineteenth century, notably after "The Origin of Species." Fortunately, too, Dr. Merz has been content to take time. His first volume was published in 1896 (3d ed., 1907), and in it he grappled with the physical sciences. The second volume followed at an interval of seven years, and completed the task, as concerned the "sciences of nature." These volumes should be in the hands of every builder of "natural knowledge." It is to be hoped that the appearance of the